

Prudhoe Urban District Council

County of Northumberland.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1960.



COUNCIL OFFICES,
18 SOUTH ROAD,
PRUDHOE ON TYNE,
NORTHUMBERLAND.
Tel. : Prudhoe 281 and 282.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Chairman : Councillor J. RIDLEY

Members :

Councillors : Dr. D. L. GOLIGHTLY
Mrs. P. GRANGE
Mrs. F. McBRIDE
T. W. PULKINGHORN
Ald. Rev. R. E. ROBSON, J.P.
S. SIMPSON
J. L. STOKOE

—o—

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :	MADGE HOPPER,
South Area Health Office,	M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.
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Tel. : Lemington 67-4365.	

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :	W. G. TWEDDLE, M.A.P.H.I.
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CLERK AND SHORTHAND-TYPIST :	Miss J. GRAY
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1960.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I again have the honour to present the Annual Report to you.

1960 was in many respects a very satisfactory year from a health point of view. The special features of the year were the continued low infantile mortality rate, the low tuberculosis mortality rate, no notifications at all of whooping cough during the year and the lowest incidence of infectious diseases for 30 years. The latter was largely due to the fact there were few measles notifications, this not being the year of the usual biennial outbreak.

The infantile mortality rate, for which the ultimate goal of a 'nil' rate had been achieved in 1959, had a small rise to 14.5 per 1,000 births; two thirds that of the rate for England and Wales in 1960. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that a continued nil infant mortality rate can be achieved successively. The two deaths of infants under one year were both within the first two days of life and were due to perinatal causes. The graph of the infant mortality rate for the urban district since 1945 shows the saving in infant life achieved since then, when the rate was 70 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

There was no death attributable to childbirth or pregnancy.

One death from a motor vehicle accident was registered as in 1959. There was one fatal accident grouped under the heading of "All other accidents" compared with three, the previous year. The death in 1960 was of a young child in the Hospital. No fatal home or industrial accident occurred. Increased propaganda appears to be having effect. The Joint Exhibition on Safety both in Industry and the Home held in May, 1960, when Imperial Chemical Industries Limited and this Council joined forces in producing the combined exhibition, was very well attended.

Deaths from influenza dropped to two, whereas there were six in the previous year during an outbreak of the disease in the district.

A significant rise in the deaths from cancer of the stomach took place to eight in 1960, from three in 1959.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases was extremely small, being 34 compared with 379, in 1959. This is the lowest annual total during the last 30 years.

One case of poliomyelitis was notified but the virus was not isolated from the patient and the possibility that the illness may have been due to an allied virus cannot be ruled out. A good recovery was made.

Sonne dysentery showed a welcome decrease to two cases notified from 15, in 1959 and 34, in 1958.

No death from pulmonary tuberculosis was registered thus conforming to the present trend throughout the country, but there was one death from the non-pulmonary form of the disease. There was an unwelcome rise in the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis among residents of the district to five primary notifications from two, in the previous year. One case of primary notification of pulmonary tubercle was a newcomer to the district and another was a recurrence of the disease.

Building of new houses, both by the Council and privately, proceeded during the year. The metamorphosis that has taken place during the last few years and the appearance of the urban district as regards housing is apparent even to the casual visitor. The terms in increased amenities and comfort of the inhabitants is expressed, to some extent, in the figure of an average of 3.3 persons per house, a drop of 0.7 in a period of 15 years.

The chiropody service established by the Old People's Welfare Committee in March, 1960 has proved of great value to the old people of the district and sessions held at the Child Welfare Centre are well attended.

The other activities of the department continued with steadiness throughout the year. My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and encouragement. The sustained good work of Mr. Tweddle, Public Health Inspector, and of Miss Gray, Clerk/Typist to the department, which are of immense value in its smooth running, was much appreciated as was also the co-operation of the Clerk and other officers of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	3,889
Population (Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population)				..	10,290
Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	3,092

The chief industry in the district is the I.C.I., Chemical Works. Coal mining which was one of the major industries in the past has considerably decreased. In 1960, the West Wylam Colliery closed and the only remaining pit in production is the Hedley Park Pit.

POPULATION

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population of the urban district was 10,290, an increase of 100 on that for the previous year. In recent years, there has been a small but steady gradual increase in population.

BIRTHS

In the course of the year, 138 births (79 male and 59 female) were registered compared with 157 births (78 male and 79 female) in 1959. This was a decrease of 19 births, being entirely in the number of female births.

There has been a definite decline in the number of births registered during the last two years. In 1958, 180 births were registered, the largest number since the years immediately after the war. In 1960, the birth rate declined to 13.3 per 1,000 population compared with 17.1 for England and Wales and 15.2 for this district in 1959. There were four illegitimate births (1 male and 3 female) compared with one, in 1959 and three, in 1958.

Still Births

A welcome feature of the vital statistics was the decrease in the number of still births to one only. In 1959, four still births occurred and in 1958, there were three. In 1960, the still birth rate was 7.2 per 1,000 live and still births and that for England and Wales was 19.7 (provisional).

DEATHS

A total of 114 deaths (55 male and 59 female) was registered, a reduction of 20, mainly in male deaths, on those registered the previous year. The corrected death rate for the urban district was 12.7 and that for England and Wales was 11.5 per 1,000 of the population. 24 Of the deaths in 1960 occurred at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital and the number of deaths of residents of the district was, therefore, 90 compared with 112, in 1959 and 95, in 1958.

Natural Increase of Population

This was still low in the year under review, being only 48, compared with 44, in 1959 and 95, in 1958.

Infant Mortality

In the previous year, the record of a 'nil' infant mortality was reached for the first time, the rate for England and Wales being 22.2 per 1,000 live births.

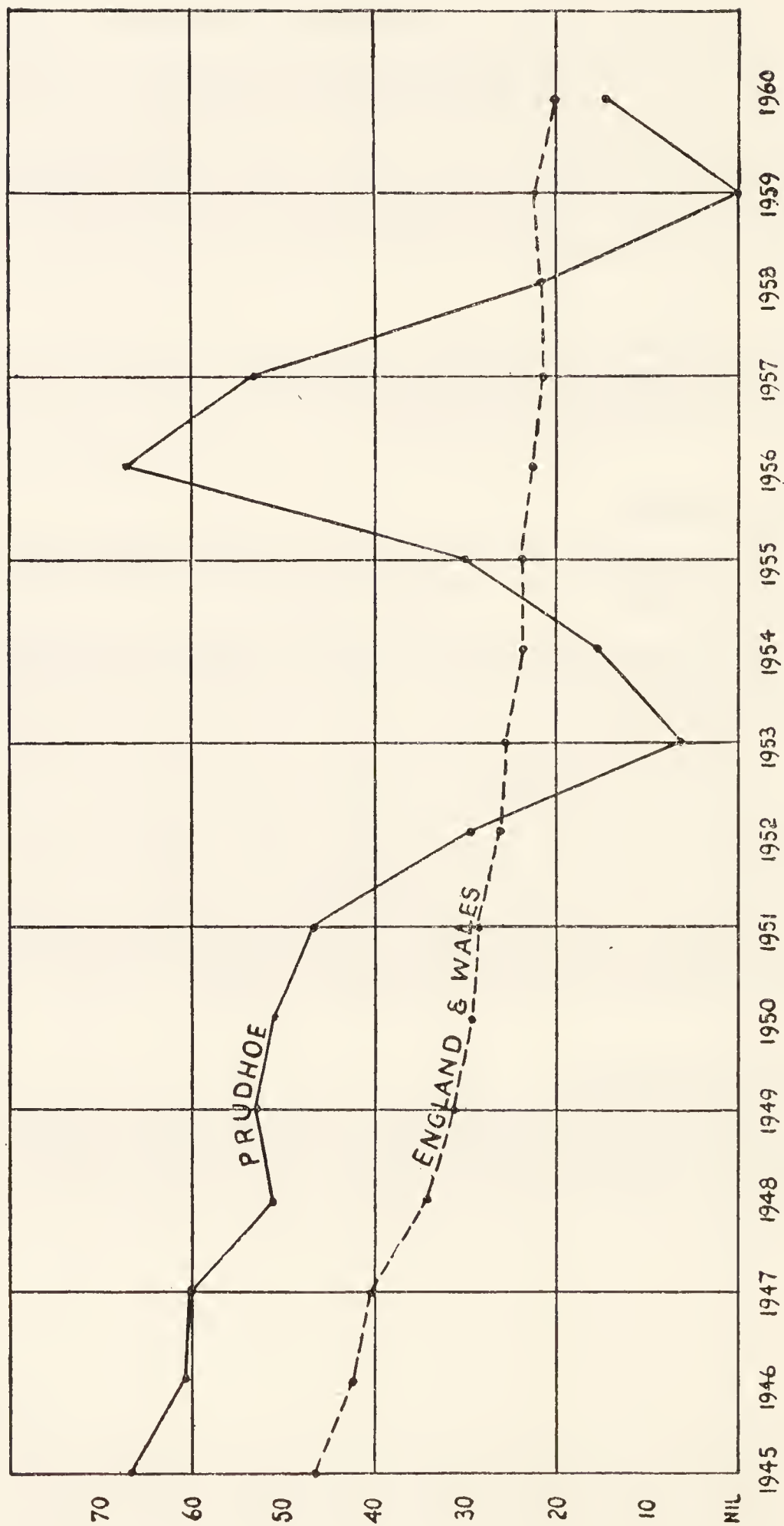
In 1960, there were two infant deaths (1 male, 1 female) both in the first few days of life. In both cases, prematurity was an important contributing factor.

The infant mortality rate for the urban district in 1960 was 14.5 per 1,000 live births compared with the national rate of 21.7. The rate for the district is still low in comparison and it is hoped that this will continue. Infection as a cause of infant death, which has been receding rapidly of recent years, was at last eliminated in the year under review. Of course, deaths from infective causes will, no doubt, occur in the future but it is noteworthy there was no death from this cause in 1960. The two infant deaths were neo-natal ones as they occurred within the first month of life and are really perinatal in origin.

Maternal Mortality

For the fourth successive year, no death from pregnancy or child-birth was registered in the district. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.39 per 1,000 live and still births.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1945 to 1960



Individual Causes of Death :

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	—	1
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	—	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	—
Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	2 (1)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	5 (1)	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	—	—
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	11 (2)	5 (2)
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	12 (4)	16 (7)
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	—	1
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	2	4
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	2	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	—	2
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2 (2)	5 (1)
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	3	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	8 (3)	7 (1)
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	—
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	—	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—
					<hr/> 55 (12)	<hr/> 59 (12)

(Figures in brackets denote deaths in the Prudhoe & Monkton Hospital).

There were 38 deaths in the largest classification of "Heart and Circulatory Diseases," compared with 46 deaths in this grouping in 1959, 11 occurred in the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.

Deaths from "Vascular lesions of the nervous system" showed a considerable decrease to a total of 16, from 26, in the previous year. Up to 1960, there has usually been a small annual increase in this group.

Deaths from "Malignant neoplasm" of all types totalled 22, compared with 19, in 1959 and 20, in 1958. A rather significant feature was that deaths from lung cancer decreased to one, from two in both 1959 and 1958 and those from cancer of the stomach rose to eight, from three, in 1959 and in 1958.

Deaths classified as from "Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms" were 11 in both years.

In total, deaths from respiratory diseases generally were again similar in both years, 13 being registered in 1960, 12 in 1959 and 13, in 1958, but there was a decided fall in the number of deaths from Bronchitis to three, in 1960 from six, in 1959 and a rise in those from Pneumonia to seven, in 1960 from four, in 1959.

In the previous year there had been a notable increase in the number of deaths from Influenza to a total of six. These decreased to the more usual level of two, in 1960.

One death from a "Motor vehicle accident" was registered, as in the previous three years. The fatal motor vehicle accident occurred to a young man of 24 years of age.

Under the grouping of "All other accidents" which includes both home and industrial accidents, there was a welcome reduction to one only from three, in the previous year. This death of a child of 4 years of age occurred at the Hospital.

Unfortunately, there was one death from "Suicide," a female, of 67 years of age. No death from Suicide has been registered since 1954 until this year.

**TABLE OF DEATH AND BIRTH RATES
COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES**

Year	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales
1945	8.9	11.4	67.6	46.0	15.3	16.1
1946	10.16	11.5	60.8	43.0	15.8	19.1
1947	10.1	12.0	60.24	41.0	17.95	20.5
1948	9.2	10.8	51.7	34.0	18.73	17.9
1949	9.5	11.7	52.9	32.0	16.16	16.7
1950	10.2	11.6	51.8	29.8	14.23	15.8
1951	9.2	12.5	47.6	29.6	13.3	15.5
1952	9.6	11.3	30.3	27.6	14.05	15.3
1953	12.5	11.4	6.7	26.8	14.67	15.5
1954	13.08	11.3	16.9	25.5	11.25	15.2
1955	13.4	11.7	30.5	24.9	13.5	15.0
1956	14.2	11.7	66.6	23.8	12.5	15.7
1957	12.2	11.5	54.0	23.0	14.7	16.1
1958	12.8	11.7	12.2	22.5	17.5	16.4
1959	15.06	11.6	0.0	22.2	15.2	16.5
1960	12.7	11.5	14.5	21.7	13.3	17.1

II.—TUBERCULOSIS

No death from pulmonary tuberculosis was registered in 1960, but there was one death, a female, from the non-pulmonary form of the disease. In the previous year, one death from pulmonary tubercle was registered and none from the non-pulmonary form.

The death rate from tuberculosis (all forms) was 0.09 compared with the rate for England and Wales of 0.075 per 1,000 population. This is in conformity with the general trend of recent years and gradual decline in the mortality of tuberculosis.

Notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) showed an increase to five cases of residents (1 male and 4 female), from two (1 male and 1 female), in the previous year. Three of the female cases were over 45 years of age and one was 20 years of age. In addition, two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. The total number of notifications in the district was seven pulmonary (3 male and 4 female) and one of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (female) compared with six cases of pulmonary tubercle in 1959.

There were two inward transfers during the year, one to the Hospital and one to the district.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st December, 1959	29	16	11	6	62
31st December, 1960	23	17	11	6	57

Classification of New Cases Notified in 1960

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	— (1)	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	1	—	— (1)
25—35 years	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—
45 and over	— (1)	3	—	—
	1 (2)	4	—	— (1)

(Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital cases indicated in brackets)

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the district on the 19th and 20th August, 1960. The work carried out is shown as follows :—

Miniature Films	75 males :	86 females :	161 total :
Number recalled for			
large film X-ray :	6 males :	2 females :	8 total :

All patients recalled were referred to the Chest Clinic at Hexham for convenience and were seen by the Chest Physician. No case of pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered.

The unit previously visited the district both for public sessions and industry in 1959. The present policy is to visit industry every two years and the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital every five years.

The attendance at the unit was less than usual, being about half that of the previous visit. This is probably accounted for by the fact that the unit has come regularly to the district during the last few years. In future the visits will be at longer intervals.

The patients from the district attend the Chest Clinic at Hexham under the Senior Chest Physician and admittance to the sanatoria of the region is usually immediate. Surveillance of family contacts is undertaken at the Chest Clinic and home supervision by the health visitors of the district. Children at risk and the older age groups of children at the schools are given B.C.G., vaccination with the parents' consent.

As in former years, the housing needs of tuberculous patients and their families are given special attention by the Council. Two patients suffering from tuberculosis and their families were rehoused in the course of the year.

The sanatorium at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital continued treatment of mentally disordered patients suffering from tuberculosis. Patients from other institutions in the region are admitted and appended below is a table giving the number of cases at the end of the year. This showed a slight increase on the figure at the end of 1959.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st December, 1959	26	14	2	1	43
31st December, 1960	29	14	2	2	47

III.—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified in 1960 was 34, compared with 443, in 1959 and 72, in 1958. This is the lowest incidence of infectious diseases recorded in this district during the last 30 years, being only slightly above the very low number of 23 notifications in 1910 and 32, in 1911 when the population was 7,819 and 8,212 respectively.

Measles.

The bulk of the notifications in the previous year had been due to an outbreak of Measles, a total of 379 cases being notified. This outbreak in 1959 commenced in April, continued during the following months, began to rise in October and reached the peak in November when 106 cases were notified. After that there was a rapid decrease, 13 cases being notified in January, 1960 and there was one case in February and none from then onwards to the end of the year. There is a regular pattern of biennial increase, as the younger children become at risk, the years of 1957 and 1959 definitely showing this.

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever also noticeably decreased in the year under review to a total of 11 cases from 28, in 1959. The cases were sporadic but six occurred in the months of May and June. In May, four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, children from 7 to 10 years of age who were all attending different schools. A family contact of one child was kept from the handling of food in connection with school meals for a short time. A throat swab proved negative for haemolytic streptococci and no further case occurred. The cases generally were of a very mild type.

Whooping Cough.

It is extremely pleasing to be able to report that no case of Whooping Cough was notified in the year. The incidence of this disease has been showing a marked fall since 1956 but this year is the first time that no case at all was notified. In 1959, eight cases were notified and 23, in 1958.

The graph showing the drop in the incidence of Whooping Cough coincident with the rise in the number of children immunised against the disease, which was published last year has been added to showing this drop to zero in incidence. The immunisation of babies and young children with the triple antigens of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus has become practically routine and this is definitely showing effect now.

Dysentery.

Two cases were notified, both of Sonne Dysentery. One was at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital and one, a boy of 8 years, living in the district. On investigation, no positive family contacts were found. In the previous year, 15 cases were notified and in 1958, there were 34.

Food Poisoning.

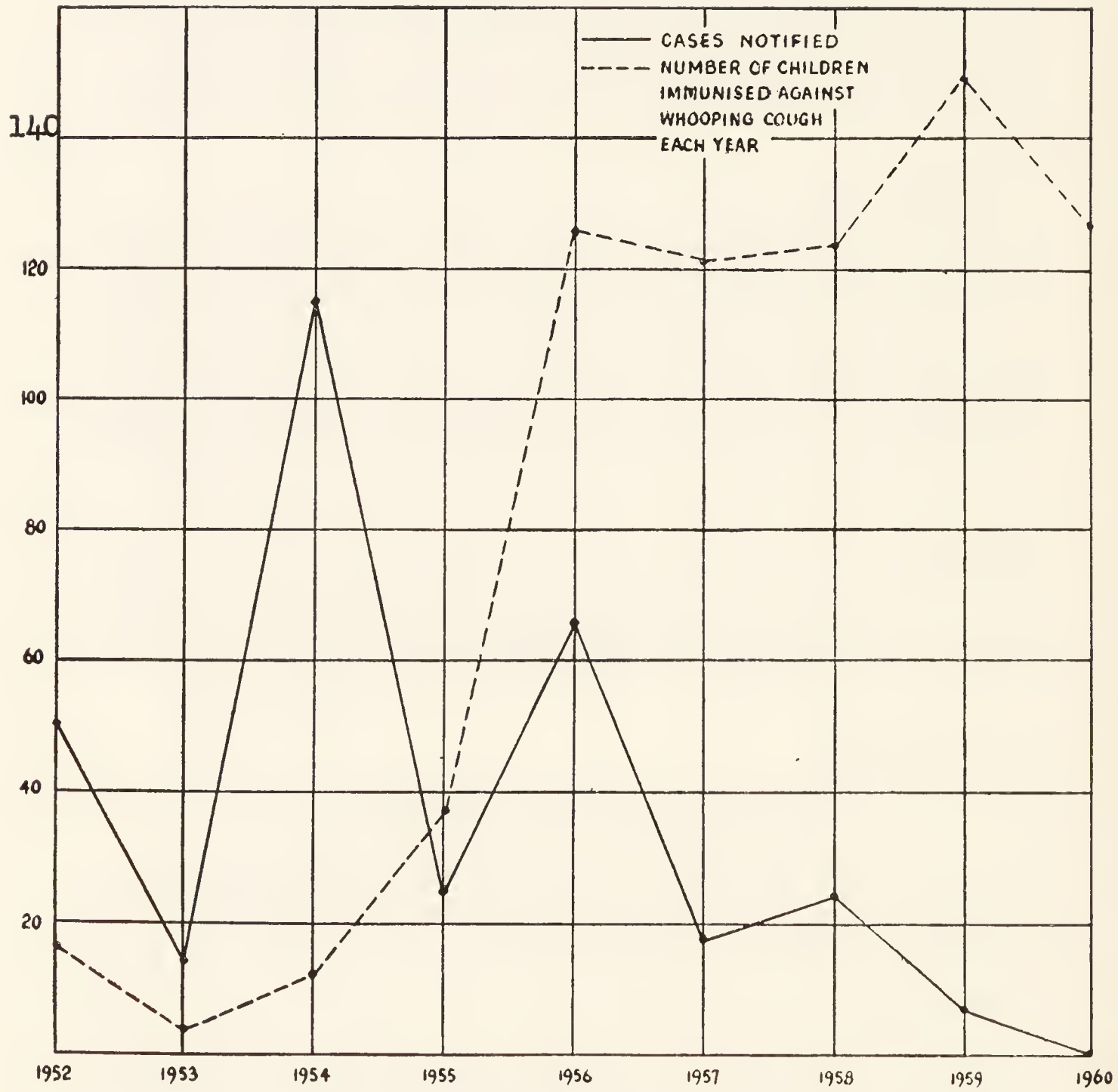
For the third year in succession, no notified case of Food Poisoning was received. There were four cases in 1957 and 27, in 1956.

One case of Salmonellosis, due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, occurred in October. Investigations revealed no connection with food and there were no positive home contacts. Surveillance continued for some time until the stools were finally cleared.

Poliomyelitis.

One case of Poliomyelitis (paralytic) was notified during the year. No case was notified in 1959 and two cases in 1958. The case this year occurred in November at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. The patient, a boy of 15 years, had been resident for some years at a hospital in a neighbouring county.

The onset of symptoms was the 21st October and the patient was removed to Prudhoe Hall isolation block on the 7th November. The boy had been immunised against the disease, the third injection being given on the 13th September. There was some paralysis of one arm and leg. Bacteriological investigation of stool specimens of the patient all proved negative. The paralysis of the left leg speedily improved, some slight weakness of the left shoulder remained.



Meningococcal Infection.

One case of Meningococcal Infection in a baby of just over a year, occurred in February. The baby was admitted to the Child Health Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne and made a good recovery.

Influenza.

In the Spring of 1959, Influenza was prevalent in the district. In the last week of February, 1959, the claims for sickness benefit rose to 300% higher than the number of normal claims during the previous nine months. During 1960, no particular rise in the claims for sickness benefit was reported.

Four cases of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified in the year, compared with nine, in the previous year. All four cases occurred at the end of April to early May.

The general practitioners of the district again co-operated with the Public Health Department in keeping a close watch for initial cases of Influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications.

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Amendment Regulations, 1960.

These regulations came into operation on the 1st December and provide for the notification by medical practitioners to Medical Officers of Health of all cases of anthrax. This is in addition to the regulations already existing of notification to the Chief Inspector of Factories of cases of anthrax contracted in any factory. Copies of the regulations together with a covering explanatory letter was sent to all medical practitioners resident and practising in this district. The new regulations tighten up the notification of anthrax and remove an anomaly.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2	—	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	11
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	13	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Dysentery ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
do. (Non-Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	15	3	—	3	7	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	34

FOOD POISONING

Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) as Returned to Registrar General :

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS.

Total outbreaks : Nil. Total cases : Nil.

Outbreaks due to :

(a) Chemical Poisons	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(d) Cl. botulinum..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(e) Cl. Welchii	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(f) Other bacteria (to be named)	..	..	..	..	Nil.

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE.

Total outbreaks : Nil. Total cases : Nil.

SINGLE CASES.

Agent identified : Nil. Unknown cause : Nil.

Total : Nil.

Salmonella Infections, Not Food-Borne.

Salmonella (type)	..	..	..	..	..	Typhi-murium
Outbreaks	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Number of cases (outbreaks)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Single cases	..	..	..	..	..	One
Total number of cases (Outbreaks and Single Cases)	..	..	..	..	..	One

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The examination of faeces, ice cream, milk and water was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Bacteriological Reports.

				<i>Results</i>		<i>Total</i>
				<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	
Faeces	..	..	..	5	8	13
Sputum	..	..	..	1	—	1
Throat swabs	..	..	..	1	5	6
Vaginal swabs	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals				7	13	20

IV.—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47—**Removal to suitable premises of persons suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged and infirm, are living in insanitary conditions and in need of care and attention.**

No formal action was necessary under this section but several elderly persons were visited in their homes and assistance given, generally through the Home Help Service.

Section 50—**Burial of the Dead.**

No formal action was required under this section.

V.—HOUSING

In 1960, the Council continued its building programme at West Wylam, 82 houses being completed and occupied during the course of the year. At the end of 1960, the Council owned over 1,300 houses and further building was proceeding on the West Wylam Estate where it was expected that another 250 houses could be built.

A private estate was commenced in March at Moor Road, Prudhoe where it was planned to build 127 houses. Forty of these houses were occupied at the end of the year. In 1945, the total number of inhabited houses in the urban district was 2,242 with a population of 9,046 giving an average of four persons per house.

In 1960, the population had risen to 10,290 and the total number of houses to 3,092, giving an average of 3.3 persons per house, a drop of 0.7 persons in a period of 15 years. When it is considered that many of the houses removed under slum clearance had only one bedroom and these have been replaced by houses of two, three and four bedrooms, it can be clearly seen that the housing position has been very greatly improved and people living in the district are enjoying many amenities which did not formally exist.

VI.—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The West Wylam Colliery closed down in June of this year and tipping of spoil on the West Wylam Spoilbank ceased. The National Coal Board however have maintained their spraying operations throughout the year and while there are still small burning areas of spoilbank, no real nuisance exists.

Smoke from domestic chimneys is the main source of pollution in the district, that generated from industrial plants being relatively small.

VII.—WATER SUPPLY

The district is served by the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and at all times the supply has been found to be satisfactory.

Several samples of water were taken and examined and the quality found to be excellent.

A piped mains water supply is now provided to every house in the district, the last private well supply being discontinued the previous year.

VIII.—FOOD HYGIENE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Regular visits were paid by the Public Health Inspector to food premises in the district and employees given advice and instruction at the time of the visit. Posters on Food Hygiene have been placed in salient points throughout the district as the occasion arose.

Samples of milk taken during the year were all satisfactory. Ice cream sold in the district is prepacked except that by one retailer. Samples of ice cream from this retailer were satisfactory.

Parties of student nurses have been given talks on various matters relating to public health.

An evening lecture was given to the Mickley Women's Institute which was particularly well attended.

A "Care for Safety" Week was held in the Assembly Rooms at the Social Club in Prudhoe for four days from the 24th to the 27th May. Home safety, Industrial and Road safety were all incorporated and exhibits were shown by the National Coal Board, Fire Prevention Department of the Northumberland County Council, the G.P.O., the Health Department of the County Council and this department.

Various competitions by essay, poster and poetry were organised in the course of the week. The exhibition was opened on the 24th May by Mr. A. E. Blench, Production Director of the I.C.I., Limited, Billingham. The exhibition was well attended and parties of school children were conducted round at various times.

IX.—WELFARE OF THE AGED

Further progress was made by the Old People's Welfare Committee of the district in establishing a chiropody service in March, 1960. An average of eight persons visit the Child Welfare Centre in Prudhoe every Monday and receive attention from a qualified chiropodist. This service has been much appreciated and is meeting a real need.

Friendly visiting on a voluntary basis has not yet been established.

These details have been kindly supplied by Mr. T. Philipson, Honorary Secretary.

The community as a whole is closely knit and there are few people living alone without some family contact. Approximately 80 aged people each year in the urban district receive the services of a home help.

X.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The details of this section have been compiled by Mr. W. G. Tweddle, Public Health Inspector.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(a) REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Hospitals.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Walker Gate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Tuberculosis.

As previously mentioned in the report, cases from the urban district attend the Chest Clinic at Hexham under the Consultant Chest Physician and when in-patient treatment is required are admitted to one of the sanatoria or to the Walker Gate Hospital almost immediately.

(b) **LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES.**

(Services 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the care of the buildings under Service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub. Committee of the Northumberland County Council. The other services are directly administered by the Northumberland County Council).

1. **Midwifery and Home Nursing Service.**

Four nurse/midwives cover these services in the urban district — Nurse L. Kerr, 3 Gordon Terrace, Prudhoe ; Nurse Savage, 47 West Road, Prudhoe, Nurse Bolam, 7 South Road, Prudhoe and relief Nurse Davison, 4 Hillside Villas, Stocksfield.

2. **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

The Child Welfare Centre at the Council Yard, Prudhoe, holds sessions for babies, children, expectant mothers, dental, eye and orthopaedic treatment as follows :—

<i>Children's Sessions :</i>	Every Wednesday,	9 a.m. to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<i>Ante-Natal Sessions :</i>	Every Tuesday, Every Friday,	1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<i>Eye Sessions :</i>	2nd Thursday in every month,	9 a.m. to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<i>Orthopaedic Sessions :</i>	1st, 3rd & 4th Thursday in every month,	9 a.m. to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
A speech therapist attends every Monday,		9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Relaxation classes every Wednesday evening,		7 p.m. to 8-30 p.m., for expectant mothers.

3. **Immunisation and Vaccination.**

As in former years, immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and by the general practitioners of the district and refresher doses given at the schools. 158 (153) Primary courses including 134, (0 — 4 years) and 24 (5 — 14 years) were completed during the year. 421 (99) re-inforcing injections were also given. The figures in brackets show the numbers for 1959.

At the 31st December, 1960, a total of 90% (91%) of children in the district up to 15 years of age had been immunised at some time during their lives. The total is built up of children 0 — 4 years, 75% (75%) and children 5 — 15 years, 98% (98%). The figures in brackets indicate those for the previous year.

The Immunity Index of the urban district, which gives the percentage of children in various age groups immunised during the last five years, showed a very decided increase on the figures for the previous year. The total Immunity Index of all children under 15 years of age was 66% (55%), of children under one year 30% (25%), of children 1 — 4 years 86% (90%), and of children 5 — 14 years 62% (45%).

In the previous two years, the vaccination campaign against Poliomyelitis had been intensive and a slight decrease in the im-

munity figures of children at school was noticeable. This has now been made up and good progress continued in the immunisation against Diphtheria campaign. The importance of this campaign is again stressed, as the immunity level of the child population is of great importance in combatting any outbreak. These outbreaks do occur from time to time in the country.

The routine of immunisation procedure in young children is now settled and the use of the triple antigens of diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough for young children is a great help, as it cuts out the number of injections required compared with the number if each antigen was given separately.

The help of the school medical officers in giving refresher doses at the schools towards the end of the year was much appreciated.

Whooping Cough.

A total of 128 children, 110 under one year of age, 17, 1 — 4 years of age and one, 5 — 14 years of age received protection against Whooping Cough, compared with 149, in 1959 and 122, in 1958. The triple antigens of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus were used. It is a very welcome feature of the year, that no notifications of Whooping Cough were received probably for the first time in the history of the district. The graph showing the incidence of Whooping Cough on page 12 between the years of 1952 and 1960 is of interest as it shows how with the yearly increase in the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough, the incidence of the disease has gradually diminished.

Tetanus

128 Children received protection against Tetanus by means of the triple vaccine compared with 148, in 1959 and 100, in 1958.

Vaccination against Smallpox

The improved figures for vaccination against Smallpox continued, 112 primary vaccinations being given and one revaccination. The increased efforts of the last three to four years have continued and the vaccination state of the population has much improved. In 1956, primary vaccinations against Smallpox numbered only 27.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The age for vaccination against Poliomyelitis was extended to include young persons from 26 to 40 years of age. During the year, the campaign continued with unabated zeal including primary injections and third injections to those who had already had two.

In the South Area, by the 31st December, 1960, 21,304 children aged six months to 15 years, 1,312 expectant mothers and 410 in other groups, including general practitioners, nurses, ambulance drivers and some hospital staff, 3,376 young persons aged 15 to 25 years of age and 1,389 persons aged 26 to 40 years of age, a total of 27,791 persons, had received two injections since the commencement of the campaign. In addition, 22,254 third injections had been given.

4. **Ambulance Service.**

A driver and ambulance stationed at 4 High Row South, Mickley Square, Stocksfield (Telephone No. 3110 Stocksfield), continued to function as in former years. The radio controlled ambulance is in direct communication with the Throckley Station at Westway, Throckley (Telephone No. 67-4535 Lemington). Messages from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m., on weekdays and from noon on Saturdays to 8 a.m. on Mondays go direct to the central depot at Wideopen and are relayed to either the Prudhoe ambulance or the Throckley Station. Ambulances of the British Red Cross Society act as cover when necessary.

On 1st June, 1960, an ambulance car service run from a private garage in the district was introduced to assist the Prudhoe service and also indirectly ambulances of the Throckley Depot, particularly when the Prudhoe driver is off duty.

Construction commenced on the new three-bay garage and house for the driver at Prudhoe on a site at Front Street, Prudhoe.

The Prudhoe ambulance made a total of 671 (718) journeys, carried 3,585 (3,503) patients, including 113 (130) accident and emergency cases and 273 (260) stretcher cases and did a total of 26,312 (29,447) miles. Figures in brackets indicate numbers for last year. Additional journeys were, of course, made by the ambulances of the Throckley Station, the British Red Cross Society and the ambulance car service.

5. **Home Help Service.**

The valuable help of this service continued throughout the year, the total number of cases being slightly less than in previous years. The type of cases served were almost entirely old age, infirmity and chronic illness, 81 in 1960, one case of acute illness, one blind person and one case of tuberculosis, a total of 84 cases compared with 105 in the previous year.

6. **Nursing Care Committees.**

The two Nursing Care Committees of the district, one at Prudhoe and the other at Mickley, continued their services. Requests were not numerous but the committees fulfil a useful function. The Honorary Secretaries are :—

Mrs. A. L. Knox, 1 Grange Terrace, Prudhoe.

Mr. B. Nichols, 4 Aged Miners' Homes, Mickley Square.

Larger items of nursing equipment are provided by the South Area Health Sub. Committee and smaller items are held by the district nurses as in former years.

7. **Care and After-Care.**

The Newburn and Prudhoe After-Care Sub. Committee continued to hold their usual two-monthly meetings. Milk was supplied to patients suffering from tuberculosis and occasionally to patients suffering from other lung and heart diseases. Travelling expenses of relatives to hospital were also paid in suitable cases. This Committee fulfills a useful function in supplying additional aid and, at times, items not available from official sources and also in supplying comforts.

REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960

To Dr. Madge Hopper,

Once again it is my pleasure to submit to you my annual report.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water Supply	6
Drainage	143
Fried Fish Shops	10
Tents, Vans and Sheds	5
Factories	69
Bakehouses	2
Public Conveniences	66
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	16
Refuse Collection and Disposal	300
Rodent Control	75
Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act)	17
Schools, Shops and Miscellaneous Public Health Visits	326
Public Health and Housing Acts	803
Inquiries and Disinfection in cases of Infectious Disease	76
Butchers, Canteens, Dairies, Fishmongers, Grocers and Food Preparing Premises	173
Ice Cream Retailers, Manufacturers and Restaurants	24
Street Hawkers' Carts and Vehicles	6
Miscellaneous Food Visits	53
	2,170

Number of Nuisances Found	83
Number of Nuisances Abated	82
Number of Verbal Notices Served	97
Number of Verbal Notices Complied With	90
Number of Informal Notices Served	239
Number of Informal Notices Complied With	205
Number of Statutory Notices Served	—
Number of Statutory Notices Complied With	—

General Administration under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

In 1960, 360 enquiries and complaints were received by the Public Health Department and suitable action was taken to deal with each matter.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Five privies were removed and replaced by water carriage at the following properties :—

No. 5 Leaburn Terrace, Prudhoe	..	1
No. 1 St. Thomas' Terrace, Prudhoe	..	1
No. 11 North Row, Eltringham	..	1
Nos. 10 and 11 High Mickley	.. ..	2
		<hr/> 5

With the demolition of properties in West Wylam many privies were removed. At the end of the year, the privies still in use was approximately 162.

The inspection of properties was maintained and the following list gives an indication of the various repair work effected to houses in 1960 :—

Dampness abated	.. .. .	9
Walls and ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	.. ..	3
Roofs renewed or repaired and chimney stacks repointed		12
Walls repointed and eaves gutters renewed or repaired	..	10
Floors renewed or repaired	.. .. .	7
Doors renewed or repaired	.. .. .	3
Window frames renewed or repaired	.. .. .	4
W.C's., renewed, repaired or provided	.. .. .	14
Water pipes repaired	.. .. .	4
Yard surfaces renewed	.. .. .	4
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	.. .. .	7
Drains cleared	.. .. .	48
Dustbins renewed and additional	.. .. .	103
Food stores provided	.. .. .	2
Accumulations removed	.. .. .	13
Scullery sinks provided	.. .. .	2
Gullies provided	.. .. .	12
Drains repaired or reconstructed	.. .. .	11
New drainage	.. .. .	12
Privies and privy ashpits abolished	.. .. .	40

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR		With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a)	By Local Authority	82	—	82
(b)	By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c)	By private persons	—	40	40

Total number of inhabited houses in District .. 3,092

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority 1,382

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

Closing and Demolition	No. of Houses.
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	54
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	6
3. Houses closed, not demolished	1
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwell- ings and not included in above	2

Repairs

Houses made fit

5. By informal action	22
6. By owners, following statutory notice	—
7. By local authority in default of owners	—
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction ..	—

Houses patched

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	—
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SLUM CLEARANCE

1. Total number of unfit houses as originally estimated in 1955	572
2. Total number of unfit houses demolished since 1st January, 1956	245
3. Estimated number of houses in the district remaining unfit for human habitation	242
Period of years the Council think necessary for dealing with No. 3 above	2
Further proposals for action in the next	—
Number of houses to be demolished in clearance areas	232
Number of houses to be demolished elsewhere ..	10
Number of houses to be patched and retained for temporary accommodation	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959

A. Discretionary Grants	No. of separate houses
1. Applications submitted to local authority during year	21
2. Applications rejected	—
3. Applications approved	21
4. Approximate average grant approved per house ..	£213
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme.. ..	115
B. Standard Grants	During the Year Total to Date
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	— —
2. Number of houses so provided with :	
(a) Bath or shower	— —
(b) Wash hand basin	— —
(c) Hot water supply	— —
(d) Water closet	— —
(e) Food store	— —

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

9th October, 1950.	Model Byelaws, Series (1), Ministry of Food. Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1955. For securing cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.
31st December, 1953	Model Byelaws (Buildings).
1st June, 1960.	Building Byelaws made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.
1st January, 1961.	Building Byelaws made under Section 61 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Housing.

Towards the end of 1960, the last houses in the old village of West Wylam were demolished. Since the beginning of the Council's housing estate at West Wylam, the following properties have been demolished :—

Ada Street	..	..	..	..	..	12
Clara Street	..	..	..	..	..	30
Clive Street and Tyne Street (back-to-back)	..					80
Cross Street	..	..	..	..	..	14
Dene Street	..	..	..	..	..	15
Gate House and Eastgate	..	..	..	..		2
Norman Street and Wilfred Street (back-to-back)						26
Percy Street	..	..	..	..	..	28
						<hr/> 207 <hr/>

A small group of unfit properties Nos. 1 to 8, Mickley Station Cottages was dealt with, all the families being rehoused and demolition being in progress at the end of the year.

Hallyards Cottages.

This small group of five houses which were in very bad repair were also dealt with and at the end of the year only one tenant remained to be rehoused.

Mickley Square.

Removal of families from Mickley Square continued throughout the year and at the 31st December there were 77 families to be rehoused by the Council at their West Wylam Estate.

Prospect Terrace, Prudhoe and North and South Views, Mickley Square.

Following representations from the Public Health Department to the National Coal Board, the above streets which had been in a very bad state for years were made up with tar macadam and this work certainly improved the conditions from the point of hygiene and cleanliness.

Drainage Work.

All new drainage work carried out was inspected and as the volume of public works at present being done is considerable, this involved many regular visits, as it is important that drainage be properly laid.

Public Conveniences.

The two conveniences owned by the Council at Branch End and Road Ends, Prudhoe have been given regular attention and an attempt has been made at all times to keep them as clean as ever possible. More lavish use of disinfectants and deodorising blocks have been used to obtain the best hygienic conditions. There are still a number of persons who wilfully try to make these premises as foul and untidy as possible.

Refuse Collection and Disposal (House and Trade Refuse).

This service has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner considering that the summer and autumn of 1960 was probably the wettest periods for many years and in fact rain fell intermittently for several weeks and there was hardly a day when the men went home dry.

The work is carried out by the following three vehicles :—

<i>Make</i>	<i>Registration No.</i>	<i>Year Purchased</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Karrier	ETY 298	1951	7 cubic yards
Karrier	JNL 986	1955	10 „ „
S. & D.	NNL 624	1958	14 „ „

An old vehicle KBB 118 (Karrier) which will be beginning its 16th year in March of 1961, has been kept as a reserve vehicle to go into service when other vehicles are under repair but this vehicle will have to be replaced in 1961.

The amount of time lost by workmen due to sickness causes considerable difficulties particularly when it occurs in the winter season when refuse is at its heaviest and climatic conditions are bad. During 1960, a total of 362 days were lost by sickness equivalent to one man being absent for 60 weeks or approximately 10% of the actual time worked.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

The register at the end of 1960 was as follows:—

Garages	10
Joiners' and Builders' Premises..	7
Boot Repairers	2
Sanitary Pipes and Brickworks ..	3
Blacksmiths' and Light Engineering	2
Battery Charging	3
Chemical Works	1
Sand and Gravel Extraction ..	1
Miscellaneous (Building operations, etc.)	18
	—
	47
	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959.**Inspections for Purposes of Provision as to Health**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	30	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	32	1	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	3	7	—	—
TOTAL ..	47	69	1	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Re-medied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness ..	3	3	—	I	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	5	5	—	I	—

OUTWORK

NATURE OF WORK	NO. OF OUT-WORKERS IN AUGUST
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	—

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The regular inspection of food premises was maintained and any matters requiring attention were dealt with at the time of inspection.

The following types of food premises are dealt with under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Butchers	..	..	..	5
Canteens	..	..	..	2
Clubs	..	..	..	4
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	3
General Dealers	..	..	..	47
Hospital Kitchens	..	..	..	2
Public Houses	..	..	..	9
School Kitchens	..	..	..	5
Snack Bars	..	..	..	2
				—
				79
				—

During the summer, the last bakehouse in the area was closed and it is now used as a food store. There are a number of travelling shops and sales vans operating throughout the district and these have been examined from time to time.

Inspection of Food.

	<i>Unsound Food</i>			<i>Surrendered</i>
Beef	10 lbs.
Liver	40 lbs.
Corned Beef	36 lbs.
Canned Goods, etc.	345 contrs.

Disposal of Unsound Food.

The unsound meat and offal were disposed of by incineration and the remainder was buried in the refuse tip at West Wylam.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 24 — Sale of Horse Flesh.

There are no premises dealing in horse flesh.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16 — Registration of Premises. (Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream and of Sausages, etc.)

There are 45 premises registered under this section, three being fried fish shops, eight premises where food is prepared and 34 for the sale of ice cream.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Regular inspections of the only manufacturer's premises have been carried out.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 63 — Licensing of Slaughter Houses.

During the year, the Council's report on the slaughtering requirements of the district were submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This showed that the meat supplies to Prudhoe could be obtained adequately without the need of slaughtering facilities being available.

The two slaughter houses which had been licensed up to 1959 have been closed and there are now no licensed slaughter houses left.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Two persons held the necessary licence to stun and slaughter animals for human consumption.

Inspection and Control of Milk Supplies.

The district of Prudhoe is covered by the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1959, Area No. 1. In this area, all milk sold by retail must be either Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations.

Number of licences — 13.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations.

Number of licences to retail Pasteurised — 14.

Number of licences to retail Sterilised .. — 17.

Four samples of milk were collected and examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. In every case the milk proved satisfactory after Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests had been carried out.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269 — Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of licences — 1.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

In August, 1960, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued Circular No. 42/60 and a leaflet setting out Model Standards to be observed on permanent residential caravan sites and holiday caravan sites.

There are no residential caravan sites in this district.

Stables, Manure Pits and Piggeries.

This type of premise has rapidly declined in number during the last few years and no particular nuisance has been reported or found.

Disinfection of Premises.

A number of disinfections were carried out where necessary.

Disinfestation of Premises.

Various infestations by insects were reported from time to time to the Public Health Department and in every case remedial measures were taken to eradicate the pests.

Places of Public Entertainment. Circular 120, Ministry of Health.

The Rex Cinema on Front Street, Prudhoe was closed during the year leaving only one cinema, the Rio, Oakfield Terrace.

Offensive Trades. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

Restriction on establishment of offensive trade in urban district.

There are no trades of this kind in the district.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There are no pet shops in the district.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

No action by the Public Health Department was necessary under this act.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

This act came into force on the 27th November, 1960 and its object is to control noise and vibration.

RODENT CONTROL, PESTS ACT, 1949.

The annual treatment of all the Council's sewers, disposal works and refuse tip was carried out in November and this work showed that the sewers were clear of rats. Warfarin and sausage rusk has been used throughout the year and found to be very successful in dealing with infestations.

The work has been carried out very efficiently by the Rodent Operator, J. T. Robson, and has been much appreciated by residents.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) Local Author- ity	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Coun- cil Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	3042	87	3141	27
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of : —					
(a) Notification ..	—	38	11	49	—
(b) Survey under the Act..	12	117	39	168	22
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ..	—	62	33	95	6
3. Total inspections carried out including reinspections	28	189	52	269	31
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ..	5	34	—	39	—
(b) Mice Major ..	3	—	—	3	—
Minor ..	1	35	5	41	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the L.A. ..	9	69	5	83	—
6. Total treatments carried out including retreatments	12	74	5	91	—

Conclusion.

The Council made good progress on their West Wylam Housing Estate, another 82 houses being completed and occupied. The demolition of Ada Street, Clara Street, Dene Street and Percy Street was completed and only The Terrace remained of the old West Wylam Colliery village.

Removal of families from Mickley Square Clearance Area to the West Wylam Estate commenced and by the end of 1960 about half of the 167 families had been allocated new houses.

Seven houses in The Terrace were demolished to make way for a new ambulance depot and work commenced on this in November.

A private estate at Park Lane was commenced in March and by the end of the year there were 40 houses completed and many more nearing completion.

The major part of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme will be completed in 1961 and the remaining number of unfit houses will be relatively small so that it is hoped within the next two years to complete this work. There has undoubtedly been a wonderful improvement in the housing conditions of the people in this district during the past ten years.

During the year, 360 enquiries and complaints were received by the Public Health Department and these were all dealt with.

I have to report that a varied programme of work was carried through and I have much pleasure in thanking Miss J. Gray, Shorthand-Typist and Clerk, for her assistance in the efficient working of the Public Health Department.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. TWEDDLE,

Public Health Inspector.

